

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 /047 W  
-----291049Z 103070 /15

R 281000Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3385  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3196  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T DACCA 0498

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN  
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF BDG OFFICIALS ON FARAKKA

REFS: A. DACCA 0272 B. 76 DACCA 6283 C. CALCUTTA 0190 D. DACCA 0440

1. IN CONVERSATIONS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE  
AMBASSADOR HAS OBTAINED FROM SEVERAL BDG SOURCES,  
INCLUDING SOME WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TALKS, THE  
ESSENCE OF WHAT WENT ON IN NEW DELHI DURING THE  
LATEST ROUND ON FARAKKA.

2. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE RECENT TALKS IN NEW DELHI  
WAS "TOTALLY DIFFERENT" FROM THE EARLIER DISCUSSIONS.  
AFTER A SHORT, PERFUNCTORY MEETING OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS  
ON JANUARY 21, JAGJIVAN RAM REQUESTED A PRIVATE MEETING  
WITH ADMIRAL KHAN (COMMENT: IN THE TWO PRECEDING  
SESSIONS IN DACCA KHAN AND RAM MET PRIVATELY SEVERAL  
TIMES AND WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PROGRESS IN THESE  
SEPARATE MEETINGS WAS GREATER THAN IN LARGER GROUPS.  
REFTEL A.) RAM REITERATED GOI'S EARLIER OFFER (REFTEL B)  
AND SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF "TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS"  
INDIA COULD RAISE THE TOTAL FLOW DURING THE LEAN SEASON

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FROM 30,000 CUSECS TO ABOUT 31,000. INDIA COULD NOT GO  
BEYOND THIS IN VIEW OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND PROBLEMS  
WITH WEST GENGAL (REFTEL C).

3. BANGLADESHI SOURCES SAY THAT THE BDG WAS PREPARED TO  
COMPROMISE BELOW ITS EARLIER DEMAND OF 40,000 CUSECS,  
BUT, IN THE FACE OF THE ADAMANT INDIAN ATTITUDE THAT

31,000 CUSECS WAS THE LIMIT, THE BANGLADESHI DELEGATION MADE NO COUNTER PROPOSAL. WHEN IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE TALKS WOULD FAIL, JAGJIVAN RAM WENT TO MRS. GANDHI FOR FINAL INSTRUCTIONS AND RETURNED TO SAY THAT NO ADDITIONAL OFFER WAS POSSIBLE. AS A RESULT IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT THE TALKS BE ADJOURNED.

4. BANGLADESHI SOURCES REPORT IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT JAGJIVAN RAM PROMISED THAT BDG DELEGATION THAT, EVEN THOUGH A FORMAL AGREEMENT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME, INDIA WOULD STILL RELEASE 31,000 CUSECS FOR BANGLADESH DURING THE CURRENT DRY SEASON. PRESSED ON THIS, BDG OFFICIALS INSISTED THEY HAVE THIS ASSURANCE FROM THE "LONGEST STANDING MEMBER OF THE INDIAN CABINET" (BY WHICH JAGJIVAN IS MEAN). THE BANGLADESHIS REGARD THIS INFORMATION AS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY WHICH WOULD ENDANGER THE ARRANGEMENT, ASSUMING THE BDG UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT.

5. BDG OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS SAY JAGJIVAN AGREED THAT TALKS SEEKING A MORE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT WOULD RESUME SOMETIME IN APRIL, AFTER THE INDIAN ELECTION. THESE SOURCES SAY THAT DIFFERING STATEMENTS FROM NEW DELHI AND DACCA ABOUT CONSULTATIONS IN DACCA BY KHAN (REFTEL D) REFER MERELY TO THE TIMING OF THESE TALKS AND NOT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY SETTLEMENT. BDG OFFICIALS NOW EXPECT NO FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE TALKS OR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS UNTIL AFTER THE INDIAN ELECTION.

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MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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